DEFENDER - WED. JAN 30 - FEB. FEB

8 Freed Of Counterfeiting; Break For Bolden Expected

District Court Judge Abraham L. Moravitz dismissed conspiracy and other charges against eight men accused of counterfeiting and passing $50,000 in $20 bills.

The dismissal could be the first sign that a conspiracy conviction against former Secret Service agent Abraham Bolden will be vacated. Bolden was sentenced to six years in Federal Prison.

Judge Marovitz decision was believed based on testimony by Joseph Spagnoli, a defendant against whom charges were not dismissed, who said he lied several times in evidence that led to Bolden's conviction.

Spagnoli, during his own later trial on the counterfeiting charges, said he offered the false testimony at the urging of U. S. Atty. Richard Sikes.

Sikes' integrity, at the time Spagnoli's admission was defended by Asst. U. S. Atty. Robert Collins who said Spagnoli's testimony seemed to be an attempt to avoid his own conviction.

However, chief U. S. Atty Edward V. Hanrahan said his office was responsible for dismissing the charges against the eight. He explained:

"In view of circumstances that have developed, I do not feel we could proceed with the prosecution. No deal was made."

Among those dismissed by Marovitz was Frank W. Jones, 44, who was called the chief witness against Bolden.

In the Bolden trial, Jones said he acted as a "go between" in a $50,000 bribe for which Bolden was said to have turned over top secret files containing evidence against the accused counterfeiters. Half of money was to have gone to Jones.

Other defendants freed were Porter Davis, 56; William Walker, 58; Louis Powell, 36; Clemmie Stingley, 56; Roosevelt Noland, 20; Wesley Seavers, 25; and Hiram McCann, 29.

Another defendant, who was not released, drew a one year probation sentence. He was Floyd Ray, a 37-year-old car hiker who is serving a counterfeiting term in federal prison.

Bolden, following his conviction, was released on bond pending appeal. His attorney, Raymond J. Smith, has now filed a petition before the U. S. Court of Appeals asking a new trial in the light of Judge Marovitz' action.

Bolden indicated that his implication in the counterfeiting action, and subsequent conviction, was a backlash from charges he filed stating that Secret Service agents had been derelict in their duties while guarding assassinated President John F. Kennedy.

He charged that agents staged wild drinking parties during their assignment to the late President, and were in other ways irresponsible in their duties.

His attorney, at the time of Spagnoli's perjury admission, stated that he felt chances were excellent for a reversal of Bolden's conviction.